

JOURNAL

Newsletter of the Fairfax Bar Association www.fairfaxbar.org Fall 2023

THE FAIRFAX LAW FOUNDATION NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

By Lily A. Saffer, President of the Fairfax Law Foundation

I know you've heard this before, but it's truer than ever this year: The Fairfax Law Foundation needs your support!

In case you're not aware, the Fairfax Law Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization and the charitable arm of the Fairfax Bar Association. We are responsible for financially and administratively supporting the Conciliation Program, the Court Tours Program, and the Northern Virginia Pro Bono Law Center. Last fiscal year our programs provided *pro bono* legal assistance to over 700 Fairfax County residents and introduced thousands of local students to our legal system.



We could never do what we do without our amazing attorney volunteers like you, who give freely of their time to conciliate motions, give students tours of the Courthouse and an introduction to our legal system, and provide legal advice and representation to low-income residents of Fairfax County. We appreciate each and every one of our volunteers, and hope that anyone who has not volunteered with one of our programs might consider giving it a try!

However, we also could never do what we do without funding. We are projecting a significant budget deficit this year. While we are very grateful to receive some grant funding, these grants are not sufficient to cover all that we do, and donations are down. We have significant expenses, which largely include compensating the staff of our Northern Virginia Pro Bono Law Center who work tirelessly to screen and connect low-income people in need with volunteer attorneys and to create and facilitate programs that will reach those most in need, as well as covering administrative costs associated with same (such as insurance and software). We pay for the buses and substitute teachers that make our Court Tours Program possible for our local schools. We contribute to the Fairfax Public Law Library to help balance their budget and keep them in operation. We will not be able to continue supporting these efforts, and our programs will falter or perhaps even be eliminated, without increased donations.

There are many ways to donate, including as part of our First Hour Campaign this fall (donating the cost of one hour of your billable time), or as a more committed and ongoing sponsor through our Fellows Program (a commitment to giving a certain amount on an annual basis for a period of years). You can also give whatever amount you want, whenever you want! We are truly grateful for anything, and desperately hope to keep our programs operational with funding from any and all sources.

If you are curious about what we do, or ways to support us, please check out our website, www.fairfaxlawfoundation.org (where you can also conveniently make a donation), or you can contact me directly at LSaffer@maddoxandgerock.com. I am happy to candidly answer any questions you may have. Please also consider "liking" or following our accounts on social media—@FairfaxLawFoundation on Facebook and @FairfaxLawFndn on Twitter—to stay connected with what we're doing. We've posted a few videos this fall that may be of interest to anyone who supports, or wants to support, our Foundation!

We look forward to your questions, comments, hopes, aspirations, and donations, as we all work together to keep our phenomenal programs going and to assist the broader Fairfax County community. ■

President's Column

By K. Leigh Taylor, FBA President

DID TAYLOR SWIFT AND TRAVIS KELCE MAKE AN APPEARANCE AT OUR 2023 ANNUAL FBA CONVENTION?

Keep reading to find out!

Welcome to the new FBA year. As your President, I will work hard to make 2023-24 the best one yet!



We started off the year with our Annual Convention that took place from September 28 through October 1, 2023, at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Resort on the beautiful coastline of Cambridge, MD. The proximity of the resort to Fairfax combined with the ease of driving across the “scary” Chesapeake Bay Bridge led to a high turnout for our members, guests, and esteemed speakers.

As someone who never planned any sort of convention, I am forever grateful to our FBA staff, led by Executive Director Courtnie Norris, Assistant Executive Director Jana Sehrer, and CLE/Special Events Coordinator Kerri Yates. Their leadership and experience were indispensable, and I cannot thank them enough for their long hours, hard work, and dedication to this endeavor. I appreciate the numerous reassurances from Courtnie that, “Everything will be fine,” and all of Kerri’s reply emails that she “handled it.” In fact, I apologize to them for the inadvertent stress I undoubtedly caused them with my incessant worrying, especially for things out of my control like the weather. Fortunately, the rain held off throughout the convention with the sun finally peeking out on our last morning there.

With the help of several special FBA members, we planned a robust program with new and innovative CLEs and fun social events. I give my sincerest thanks to the members of our CLE Convention Planning Committee led by the amazing and unflappable Elanna Weinstein, Esq., who is a highly respected family law attorney in Fairfax and President-Elect of the FBA. Under Elanna’s leadership, the CLE program came together with the help of Judges Susan Stoney and Tania Saylor and attorneys James Abrenio, Andrew Elders, Roberta Henault, Kim Huguley, Sam Leven, and Theodora Stringham.

Our CLE programming began with our longer day of courses on Friday, which included an informative session about the overlap of criminal law, immigration law, personal injury law, and family law led by attorneys James Abrenio, Patrick Blanch, Bradley Henson, and Elanna Weinstein along with the input of Judges David Oblon, Mark Simmons, and Todd Petit. Later that day, our Public Defender Dawn Butorac and Deputy Public Defender Andrew Elders taught an innovative and new type of CLE—an advanced trial advocacy seminar—in an effort to address the stigma that civil attorneys “do not know” the evidentiary rules. Drawing on their combined experience from hundreds of criminal jury and bench trials, and enlisting the help of Judges Michael Devine and Todd Petit, the presenters treated their audience members to a highly entertaining and enlightening presentation that included a lively discussion of compelling hypotheticals and real-world examples to apply in their daily practice. Finally, Amy Tobias, Esq., along with Judges Robert Smith and Jonathan Frieden, presented an informative, family-law seminar on third-party custody cases.

On Saturday, we concluded the CLE programming with a shorter day of breakout sessions, including a personal injury CLE led by attorneys Sarah Marks and Jamie Alvarado-Taylor and Judges Christie Leary and Susan Stoney; a real estate CLE led by attorneys Sarah Petcher and Janna Wolff; and an employment law CLE led by attorneys Theodora Stringham and Roya Vasseghi. We also had two family law CLEs: Christine Hissong and Sara Schuler led the collaborative law and mediation CLE, while Judge Saylor and attorneys Katharine Maddox and Stephanie Smith led the CLE on toxic advocacy in high conflict litigation, which could have lasted much longer than an hour given the engaging conversation this difficult topic sparked among the seminar’s participants.

continued on page 15

FAIRFAX BAR JOURNAL

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The Honorable William T. Newman, Jr. recently retired as Chief Judge of the 17th Judicial Circuit Court of Virginia after thirty years of distinguished judicial service to Arlington County and the City of Falls Church. Prior to his judicial service, he enjoyed a successful private practice specializing in civil litigation. Judge Newman is the recipient of numerous legal and community awards, including the Harry L. Carrico Outstanding Career Service Award and the William L. Winston Award, the highest award given by the Arlington County Bar Foundation. A legal, governmental, and community leader, Judge Newman is a Past Vice-President of the Arlington County Bar Association, a Founder and Past President of the Northern Virginia Black Attorneys Association, and a Council Member of the Old Dominion Bar Association Council. He now brings this record of excellence and achievement to The McCammon Group to serve the mediation, arbitration, and judge pro tempore needs of lawyers and litigants throughout the Commonwealth.

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THE CLE COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

By Jeffrey L. Rhodes, Esq., Chair

COVID-19's recent resurgence reminds us of the devastating impact of the virus as we continue to overcome its lingering effects. The Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Committee has faced challenges from the pandemic as well as we have always strived to provide live, in-person programs and face-to-face advice from Fairfax judges and practitioners. We need you to get involved and help us with your ideas and enthusiasm to fully bring us back to pre-pandemic levels of participation.

This past year, we have had some terrific CLEs in person and online that have provided practical assistance to our members. In June, we had a program headlined by Judge Oblon and Elaine Bredehoft teaching the strategies and tactics of civil jury *voir dire*. Elaine provided first hand insights from her representation of Amber Heard in the six week long *Depp v. Heard* trial watched the world over. Judge Oblon gave in-depth instruction and advice based on his oversight of *voir dire*s from the bench to guide practitioners through the complex process. Blanca Gonzales, the Fairfax Circuit Court Jury Clerk Supervisor, described the clerk's office's process of calling prospective jurors and preparing the jury *venire*. Kelly Budd moderated, and I had the privilege of explaining the statutes, court rules, and Virginia Supreme Court case law governing jury *voir dire*.

These and other programs are available in our online catalogue of CLE programs at <https://fairfax.inreachce.com/>. The available programs cover a range of issues in family law, criminal law, business law, employment law, trial advocacy, real estate law, elder law, and guardianship issues.

In addition, this fall we held numerous programs for every area of practice, including the annual View for the Bench CLE. This year's View from the Bench was taught by Judges Azcarate, Bellows, Mayne, Moliken, Shannon, Sotelo, and VanLowe, as well as numerous practitioners discussing with the judges their advice for litigating in Fairfax courts in a range of practice areas. And we had our Annual Ethics CLE: Navigating Trust Account Integrity CLE regarding the challenging issue of proper trust accounting taught by Elizabeth K. Shoenfeld and Richard Johnson of the Virginia State Bar ethics committee.

I have always found attending FBA's CLE programs as key to my practice of law as the programs allow me and other practitioners in Virginia's most active court system to sit across from the judges and ask them questions about the law. This provides immediate tangible benefits in knowing what to do when appearing in cases before these same judges. These programs also teach specific litigation skills, from selecting and preparing expert witnesses to protecting a judgment on appeal, which members can then apply to their own Fairfax court cases.

Fairfax CLE programs also provide a quick primer in any of these various areas of law. By registering for a two-hour program taught by leaders in the practice area, either in person or online, members can expand their knowledge base and their ability to assist clients.

We at the Fairfax Bar CLE committee are eager to make our programs as beneficial as possible to our members. FBA members can help shape the curriculum we provide and tailor the courses available to their practice goals. Over my years on the committee, I have witnessed first hand how members and judges pick a difficult or changing area of law to develop into a program, identify and coordinate the best presenters, prepare exhaustive written materials, and teach the attendees at the live program.

FBA CLE programs have a history of providing targeted training to members on fascinating and complicated areas of law, and providing these lessons hands-on from Fairfax court judges.

I strongly encourage all FBA members to join the CLE committee, attend FBA CLE programs, and to send the CLE committee ideas for programs they would like to see. At almost every committee meeting we review proposals from members and judges, which become the basis for the new CLE programs we offer. The experience received in facilitating CLE programs has been invaluable to me. They have helped me to learn new areas of law and develop relationships with the best practitioners in these areas. The relationships have greatly strengthened my referral network and made practicing law more enjoyable.

Our meetings are at 4:00 PM on the second Tuesday of each month. For more information or to submit ideas for CLE programs, please email Kerri Yates at kyates@fairfaxbar.org. Thanks, and we look forward to hearing from you! ■

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CRIMINAL LAW SECTION

By Negin Farahmond-Wood, Esq., Chair

Message from the Committee Chair...

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the Criminal Law Section of the Fairfax Bar Association. This year our Board consists of Negin Farahmand Wood, who is continuing in her role as Chair, Carly Jehlen Hart and Katie Donoghue as Co-Vice Chairs, and Ryan Rambudhan in his role as CLE Outreach Director. The Committee as a whole looks forward over the next year to serve and further the Section's goal to improve the practice of criminal law for our Bar and membership.

The Criminal Law Section seeks each year to hold quarterly CLEs at no cost to its members. These presentations will be in-person and will aim to include both members of the Bench and Bar for discussions on the practice, procedure, and new case law in criminal law. Over the past few years, there has been meaningful reform to the criminal justice system through newly enacted statutes and amendments to existing law. An important change was the enactment of Virginia Code §19.2-271.6, which allows evidence of an accused's mental condition to be introduced to show the accused did not have the required intent for the crime. This year, we are pleased to welcome Dr. Travis Flower, a clinical and forensic psychologist, who will present on best ways to prepare this defense. Other CLEs will focus on court appointed representation for attorneys both in civil commitment hearings and criminal practice, including effective representation of juveniles charged with criminal offenses and objections and preservation of legal issues for appeal.

As in the past, this year we also look forward to collaborating with other Bar Sections to co-sponsor continuing legal education programs, promote bench-bar relationships through other events, and provide other opportunities for professional development.

We are an exciting organization with diverse members that come from a myriad of backgrounds within the legal profession, including private attorneys, federal and state defenders, federal and state prosecutors and federal judges. That breadth of membership brings with it a richness of perspectives on the practice of criminal law informed by our respective roles, life experiences, and geography.

We welcome your thoughts for any ideas or suggestions that will help us to advance our section's mission and can be reached via email at nfarahmandwood@vadefenders.org, Carly.Hart@BlanchardHart.com, kdonoghue@vadefenders.org, or ryan@novadefenders.com. If you are not yet a member of the Fairfax Bar Association's Criminal Law Section, we would encourage you to become a member to shape the future of our profession. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve and look forward to working with each of you. ■

CIRCUIT COURT COMMITTEE

By Dawn Butorac, Esq., and Laura O'Brien, Esq., Co-Chairs

The FBA's Circuit Court Committee is a forum for the Circuit Court and the Bar to exchange ideas, practice tips, and find ways to improve the practice of law in Fairfax. The Committee is open to judges, clerks of court, County Attorneys, Commonwealth's Attorneys, Public Defenders, Legal Services practitioners, members of the FBA Board of Directors, and lawyers who practice in various areas of law. The Committee also consists of Subcommittees, including Domestic Relations, General Civil Litigation, Criminal Law, and the *Circuit Court Manual*. Anyone who wishes to join the Committee can contact the Bar office and be added to the Committee membership.

The Committee and its Subcommittees meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 1:00 PM through Zoom. The Subcommittees routinely plan and hold CLEs on various topics relating to each Subcommittee's respective practice area. Under the leadership of Clyde Christofferson and his Subcommittee, the *Circuit Court Manual* is in the process of being updated for the first time since 2018. Most importantly, the Committee provides an informal setting for practitioners to share ideas, pose practice questions, and learn from one another. From questions relating to e-filing, calendar control, or the interpretation of particular Virginia Code Sections, the Committee provides a forum for these questions to be answered by the Clerk's office, judges, or other practitioners. The Committee also shares information about upcoming *pro bono* and volunteer opportunities and FBA events.

The Committee exemplifies our Bar, which is one that enjoys a strong sense of community and thrives from opportunities to learn from one another. We hope that you will join us. ■



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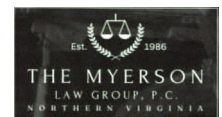
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UPCOMING EVENTS/CLES

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2023
NEWLY ADMITTED ATTORNEY ORIENTATION
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM SEMINAR
 2.5 MCLE Credits *(Pending)*
 Fairfax County Courthouse (Courtroom TBD)
 \$30 Per Registrant
5:00 - 7:00 PM HAPPY HOUR
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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2023
STATE OF THE JUDICIARY LUNCHEON
12:00 PM - REGISTRATION
12:15 PM - LUNCHEON & PROGRAM
 Country Club of Fairfax
 5110 Ox Road, Fairfax, VA
 \$45 FBA Members/\$55 Non-Members

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2023
FIVE THINGS ALL TRIAL ATTORNEYS
SHOULD KNOW ABOUT APPEALS TO THE COURT CLE
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM
 1.0 MCLE Credit *(Pending)*
 Fairfax County Courthouse (Courtroom TBD)
 \$35 FBA Members/\$50 Non-Members
Distinguished Panelists:
 Andrew Balland, Esq., Jenner & Block LLP
 Michelle S. Kallen, Esq., Jenner & Block LLP
 Juli M. Porto, Esq., Blankingship & Keith, P.C.



2023 FAIRFAX BAR ASSOCIATION FALL GOLF TOURNAMENT

By Robert S. Letnick, Esq.

On Friday, September 22, 2023, the Fairfax Bar Association held its annual Fall Golf Tournament at the Heritage Hunt Golf & Country Club. Those who participated in this golf tournament were treated to excellent weather conditions with temperatures in the low 70s on the day prior to the arrival of post-tropical cyclone Ophelia that impacted this region. The turnout for this event was the largest field of golfers that have played in the Fall Golf Tournament for the Fairfax Bar Association.

The Heritage Hunt Golf & Country Club provided all of our participants the opportunity to enjoy playing golf at a private country club that was easily accessible off of Rt. 66. The golf course was in excellent condition. Each of the players was provided with lunch and an excellent Italian buffet dinner after the event.

The format for this golf tournament as in past years was a scramble (Captain's Choice). Each of the participants have the opportunity to hit a tee shot with the team then selecting the best ball to play from for the next shot. From there, each player hits the next shot and this process continues until the hole is completed. This format provides each of the foursomes the opportunity to use their best shots while poor shots may result in a bit of humor between the players in the group and do not impact the resulting score for the hole.

This tournament was extremely competitive with a significant number of groups completing their rounds with low scores. The first place team of Bob Letnick, Jeremy Letnick, Justin Daniel, and Raj Dua shot an 18 under par 54. The team of Ryan Tracy, David Ruble, Tim Gaffney, and Chulhee Hong came in a close second place with a 17 under par 55. In third place was the team of Steve Cochran, Scott Heon, Dave Talley, and Carl Van Pelt with a 15 under par 57. Right behind them was the fourth place team of Bob Fredericks, Connie Salter, Herb Hughes, and Tom Repczynski who shot a 14 under par 58. History continued to repeat itself this year with a significant amount of competition for the last place award. While we do not identify the members of the last place team, that team did card a 4 over par 76 and edged out the next to last place team who carded a 3 over par 75.

There were a number of special events during the golf tournament, which included the women's long drive competition that was won by Cindy Yoon and the men's longest drive competition was won by Steven Purdy. This tournament had closest to the pin competitions on all par 3 holes with the women's closest to the pin competition on hole #6 won by Connie Salter, the closest to the pin competition on hole #9 was won by Jeremy Letnick, the closest to the pin competition on hole #11 was won by Ryan Tracy, and the closest to the pin competition on hole #18 was won by Dom Mullori.

A number of sponsors helped to make this golf tournament a great success. Special recognition once again goes out to **Michael H. Doherty, PLLC**, as the exclusive dinner sponsor. The global investment advisory firm of **Stout** provided us with an Eagle sponsorship and fielded a foursome in this tournament. There was a second Eagle sponsorship in this event which was by the repeat sponsor of **Culpher for Clerk. Truist Wealth Legal Specialty Group** provided us with a Birdie sponsorship while one of their attorneys, Benjamin Thompson, played in this event for the first time. Repeat par sponsors for this tournament included **Letnick Law Firm, PLC**, **Law Offices of Charles B. Molster, III PLLC**, and **Roeder, Cochran, Phillips PLLC**. In addition to these sponsors, we were once again most fortunate to have a photographer for this event who was Herb Hunter of **Kirby-Hunter Investigations, Inc.** A substantial amount of prizes were awarded during the buffet dinner. The majority of those who played in this event received raffle items, which included 20 Titleist Vokey wedges provided to us as in the past by **The Fitting Studio at Westfields Golf Club**. All of those who participated in this golf tournament had a most enjoyable afternoon away from work while having the opportunity to enjoy the camaraderie of all of the golfers who participated in this event.

The Fairfax Bar Association has scheduled the 24th Annual Spring Golf Tournament at the Westfields Golf Club on Friday, May 10, 2024 with a shotgun start commencing at 1:30 PM. Please note this date on your calendar so you have the opportunity to join us for a great day on the golf course while enjoying the companionship of friends and family away from all of the stress related to work. The spring tournament is on a date when court is in session, however, since this is scheduled on a Friday afternoon, hopefully you will take the time and opportunity to sign up for a great afternoon playing golf which will provide you with an early start for a long weekend. Participants of all golf skill levels play in the tournaments of the Fairfax Bar Association and all are encouraged to participate in our future golf tournament. ■

see sponsors and photos on next page

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PARALEGAL SECTION NEWS

By Stephanie J. Ayala, Vice-President and CPE Coordinator

Allow us to Reintroduce ourselves...

In addition to serving the legal community, the FBA Paralegal Section prides itself on the various philanthropic events held throughout the year. We always look forward to our annual back-to-school drive for under privileged students, food drive for less-fortunate families, and book drive for adolescents. Through collaboration with local non-profits the FBA Paralegal Section is constantly looking for ways to give back to our local communities.

Whether you are just beginning your career, are a seasoned pro, or are re-entering the workforce, we all find ourselves in need of a little help. If you are looking to sharpen your skills, brush up on procedure, or simply in need of community, the FBA Paralegal Section is here for you. Through this wide network of legal professionals, you are guaranteed to find someone whom you can relate to, through similar working experiences.

Attorneys, we invite you to encourage your staff to join the FBA's Paralegal Section! The mentorship, leadership, knowledge, and experience they will gain through the Paralegal Section will be supremely beneficial to them, and in turn benefit your practice as well. On a personal note: Being a member of the FBA Paralegal Section has helped my career in more ways than one. When I was beginning my career, I sometimes needed help figuring out where/how to file a pleading or to understanding why the procedure is the way that it is. My fellow Section members were there to guide me through my growing period. Being a part of the Section has also helped me form and cultivate connections that I can use at my firm when we need a referral source for our clients.

Most importantly, it is incredibly helpful to have a community that I can relate to, who understand the fast-paced and sometimes overwhelming environment that the legal field can be. Having this network has made me a much happier and more productive Paralegal throughout my career. Now, as a slightly more experienced legal professional, and as a member of the Paralegal Section's Executive Committee, I am always looking for ways to pay it forward. I am excited to be working with the Executive Committee to present more diverse CLEs to our Section and to bring more social networking events for our members.

If you (or your paralegal/legal admin), wish to join the paralegal section, you can register online today as an "Affiliate Member" or "Paralegal Student Member." You can also complete this Membership Application and submit it via mail to the Fairfax Bar Association. Paralegal Section Membership is only \$30.00 for FBA members. For more information on how to join the Paralegal Section, send an email to fba@fairfaxbar.org.

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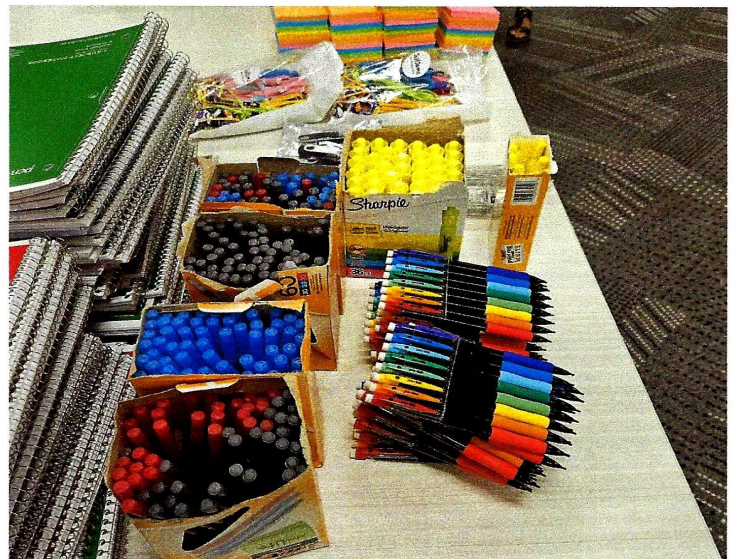
- **Annual Holiday Social** [Details coming soon!]
 - Stay tuned for more upcoming events by following the Paralegal Section online:
 - FBA website
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Annual Meeting Luncheon



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- Suite 214/215 - \$1,425/mo, full service - 2-room office on rear corner
- Suite 206 - \$1,600/mo, full service - 2-room suite on front corner across from conference room.

10640 Page Avenue - Located next to Post Office on corner of Judicial within walking distance of FFX Courthouse.

- 1st Floor - 2,519 rsf
- 2nd Floor - 1,536 rsf

LEASE - \$20.23 psf, full service, 2 - 5 yr. lease term. Owner will provide paint & carpet 5-yr. min. lease at \$23 psf. Additional build-out negot.

FOR SALE at Red Maple Court - Great location! Corner of Judicial Dr. & Jones St. - 852 SF OR 904 SF office condos; both corner units w/traditional office layout, plenty FCFS parking. Listed at \$225k each unit.

4085 Chain Bridge Road - Great location & visibility! -

- **Lobby Level Suite 101** - 3,150 rsf avail. for office/medical/limited retail use, signage facing Rt.123, & direct entrances from front street-side and from rear parking deck. Layout includes recep. area, several prvt. offices, conf. rm, large kitchen breakroom, BA, and storage areas. LEASE - \$23/psf, full service, 3 - 5 yr. lease term. Avail. immed.

4103 Chain Bridge Road - Location! Flexible office suite sizes! Elevatored office building w/plenty parking across from Fairfax Courthouse! 3-5 yr. term. LL will provide new paint & carpet w/3 year min lease.

- Suite 102 - 1,779 rsf
- Suite 400 - 4,400 rsf

LEASE - \$23 PSF, full service. Additional build-out negot.

10615 Judicial Drive, Units 101 & 201 - 2,000 sf contiguous 1st flr. units, walk-in level office space w/recep/wait. area w/ built-in recep. desk, conf. rm. w/built-in bookcases, 4 prvt. offices, 2 BAs, kitchenette, workspace w/counter & cabinets, closets, 2 util. rms., & 2 separate entrances. Suite has been completely renovated/redecorated & will be move-in ready! Uniform exterior signage allowed facing Judicial Dr. Some existing furniture avail. to remain for tenant's use. LEASE - \$3,250/mo (\$19.50 psf) + elec, cleaning, phone & internet paid by tenant, 2 - 5 yr. lease term.

Call for more details, more listings,
or to schedule a showing:

Jennifer Neel
Questor Realty, Inc.

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President's Column

continued from page 2

We were privileged to have a number of judges from all three Fairfax benches support the convention with their attendance and participation not only in the CLEs as panelists but also in Judicial Java on Sunday morning or, as we jokingly call it, “speed dating with the judges.” Judicial Java provides our members the opportunity to get to know judges in a small-group setting in which they may ask questions on any topic such as the judges’ ascension to the bench, their experience on the bench, and the good, the bad, and the ugly of what they see in certain types of cases.

My proudest moment of the convention this year was the introduction of a *pro bono* “hour of service” organized in a collaboration with Lily Saffer, the Fairfax Law Foundation President, and Arlene Beckerman, the Director of *Pro bono* activities for the Northern Virginia Pro Bono Law Center. Several attorneys gave up the opportunity to earn CLE credit to speak to indigent Fairfax County residents, who called in with legal questions about a wide range of topics, such as wage discrimination, employment discrimination, child support, and trusts and estates. For some of these callers, this opportunity might have been the first or only time they are able to obtain free legal information. I am forever grateful to our volunteers and hope the program will continue in all future conventions.

I would be remiss if I failed to thank our leader and members of the all-important Social Committee, aka “The Fun Committee,” led by Wesley Allen, Esq. Wes is not only a talented and highly accomplished attorney, but he is also a fabulous partner in crime for karaoke and festive attire. Under Wes’ leadership, the committee planned several social events throughout the long weekend with the help of attorneys Joshua Isaacs, Emily Baker, Donna Banks, David Hirsch, Aaron Christoff, and May Shallal. Friday night’s crab feast under the Regatta Pavilion at the resort included lawn games, karaoke and “Yacht Rock” attire. Saturday’s festivities included happy hour at RAR, a local brewery in downtown Cambridge, with all of us adorned in “Tacky Tiki” attire. None of these successful events would have been possible without the dedication, hard work, and time commitment of The Fun Committee members. Thank you!

Last, but certainly not least, our amazing CLE programs and social events would not have been possible without the generous support from our sponsors: The Geller Law Group; PLRG Detective Agency; Planet Depos; Taylor Huguley Powers PLLC; Feldesman, Tucker, Leifer and Fidell, LLP; ICR Rudiger and Green; Offit Kurman, Attorneys at Law; Maddox and Gerock; Freedom Bail Bonding; Gross Mendelsohn; Juridical Solutions; The Myerson Law Group; and Sensei Enterprises, Inc. Thank you to all of them for their donations, bag inserts, promotional materials, and numerous meals, desserts, and happy hours.

So, in answer to my question of whether Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce made an appearance at our humble convention, I have to admit, sadly, they did not. If they did, the FBA would surely be on the map much like the Kansas City Chiefs thanks to millions of Tay Tay’s followers. Fortunately, though, we did not need their presence to have a successful convention. In fact, we had a friendly competition between our bar association and the Chester County Bar Association (CCBA) from Pennsylvania, who happened to be in Cambridge at the same time. Although I am uncertain whether the CCBA was aware of this competition, I declared ours to be the winner! With the support and participation from all of you, the convention is no doubt a precursor to more successes awaiting us in the upcoming year. I am looking forward to seeing what we can accomplish together. ■

NEW MEMBERS

JUNE

Zohaib Ahmed
Alana Bergner
Charles F. Blanchard
Cristopher Hans De la Zerda Cordero
Julio Gonzalez
Donna C. Handley
Lauren Kelsey Ierardi
Amantha Levin
Rozanne Reinhardt

JULY

Robert A. Brown
Karin Burke
Jill Ciccone
Patrick Corish
Pier Coyne
Jennifer Crane
Amelia Katherine Flynn
Olivia L. Grady
Joshua Reid Grossman
Michael Hardy Hess
Jane Johansen
David S. Jonas
Lauren B. Katona
Christopher James Keegan
Chan Joong Kim
Jin Kim
Tyler Livingston
Nicole Marucci
George Menold
Mahlon Mowrer
Aimee Oberti-Murray
Jonathan O’Connell
Sharie Reyes Albers
Nicole Alexandra Salisbury
Caleb Michael Williams
Corey Dov Zoldan
Barry Alan Zweig

AUGUST

Edna Anokye Frimpong
Kiana Gilcrist
Emma Jeziorowski
Amy Jordan
Christine Kopple
William Cole Mohler
Kyle Newsom
Jenny Salce

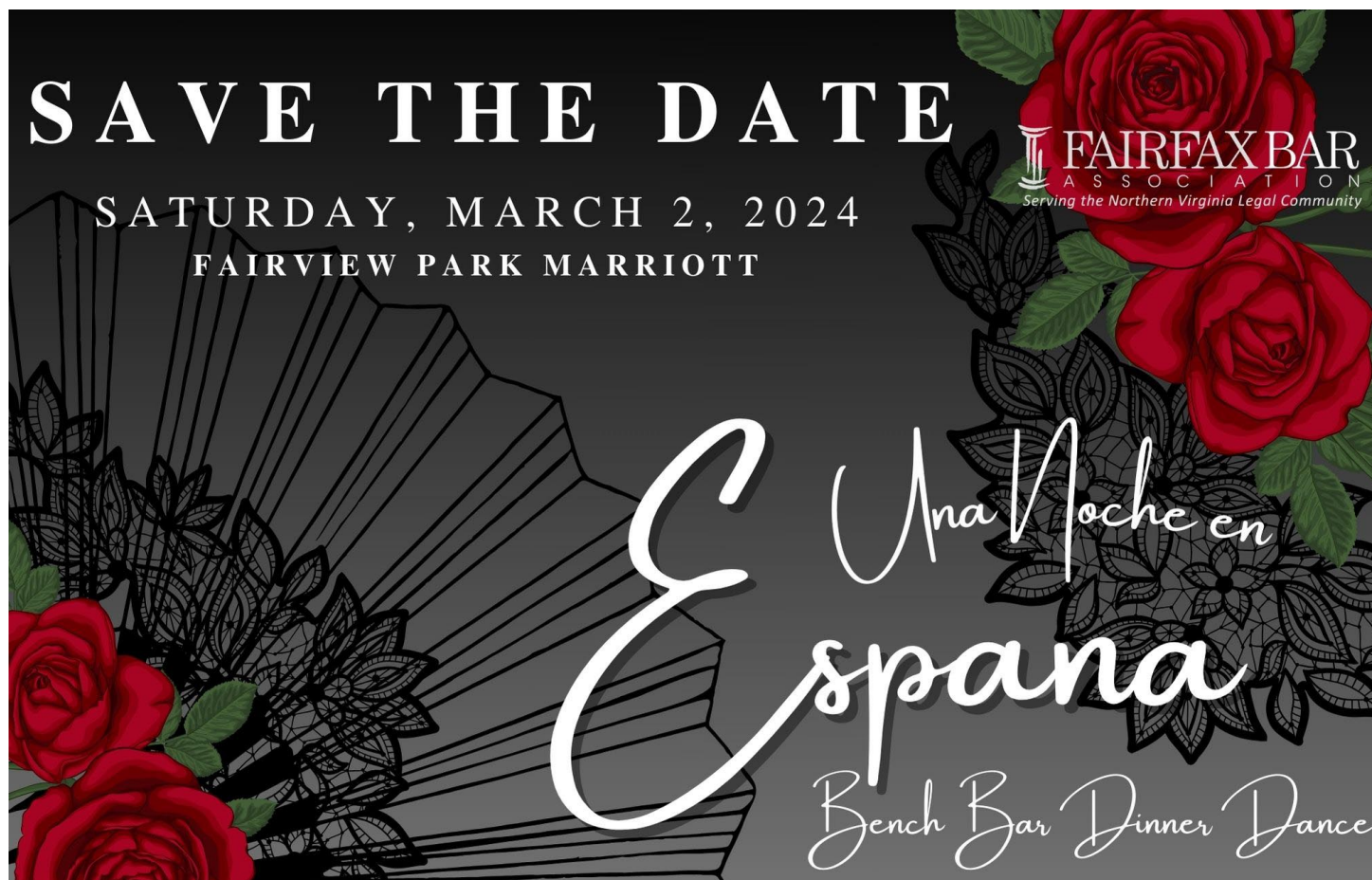
SEPTEMBER

Tammy Beardsley
Audrey Curelop
Matthew DeGioia
Morgan Paje Fryar
Ashley C. Hamilton
Stephanie Nicole Keener
Chan Kim
Peter Kosztolnik
Claire Murray
Sunny Reneau
Madison Roberts
Joan Robin
Nicole Rocha Aguilar
Alexandra Roskowinski
Leeden Rukstalis
Camelia Safi
Jackie Stabenau
Matthew Stockner
Sarah Waszmer
Kristin Weiss

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FAIRVIEW PARK MARRIOTT

FAIRFAX BAR
ASSOCIATION
Serving the Northern Virginia Legal Community

Una Noche en
Espana
Bench Bar Dinner Dance